

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

BOB YOUNG
MAYOR

January 12, 2005

The Honorable Sonny Perdue
Office of the Governor
203 State Capitol
Atlanta, GA 30334

Dear Governor Perdue:

On behalf of the citizens of Augusta, I am requesting you appoint a task force to review the shipment by rail of hazardous materials in Georgia. This task force should be comprised of experts and stakeholders and complete its work in 180 days.

The task force would be asked to make recommendations to improve safety and communication that would be forwarded to appropriate federal, state, and local governments and the railroad companies. Recommendations could range from tighter regulations to voluntary cooperation.

The chemical train wreck in Graniteville, SC, last week had the effect of the detonation of a weapon of mass destruction. These types of trains run on tracks through the hearts of Georgia's cities everyday. Our citizens should have a reasonable expectation that hazardous materials are being shipped in the safest manner possible and that local first responders are aware of such shipments in advance.

Last week, you were at Doctors Hospital in Augusta, while several of the Graniteville victims were being brought in for treatment. You have seen first hand the human tragedy of such accidents.

I believe the people of Augusta, as well as all Georgians, need assurances their public officials are doing all within their power to make their communities safe. The worst question we can get after an accident such as Graniteville would be: "Why didn't you try to do something about it?"

Thank you for your consideration of my request. I will make myself available to assist you in any way possible.

All the best,

Bob Young
Mayor

Office of the Mayor
530 Greene Street, Suite 806
Augusta GA 30911
(706) 821-1831 – Fax (706) 821-1835
WWW.AUGUSTAGA.GOV